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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/088,759	03/22/2002	Yasuhiro Maenishi	2002_0415A	8845
513	7590	12/23/2003	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.			ARBES, CARL J.	
2033 K STREET N. W.				
SUITE 800			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021			3729	
DATE MAILED: 12/23/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/088,759	MAENISHI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
C. J. Arbes	3729	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 27-51 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 27 and 36-51 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 28-35 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3 .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

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Claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Inasmuch as Claim 29 (an apparatus claim depends from a method claim) the metes and bounds are held not to distinctly and clearly define Applicants' invention. As applied to claim 30 it is not understood what Applicants intend by the use of the languagecomponent array intervals of the component feed sections not adjacent and the intervals of the components (Cf last lines of this Claim) The language not adjacent is particularly unclear.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 28-35 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura..

Kimura teaches a method and apparatus for mounting components onto a board such that the tact time of the operation is shortened. A plurality of suction nozzles and holding devices are employed. A large number of electronic components are transported from a components' supplying region to a components' mounting region. The components' mounting region is subdivided into a plurality of sections (Cf Col 4). The plurality of gripping means grips the components, removes them from the supplying means and mounts them on the subdivided mounting region.. This process is carried out seriatim. With other supplying regions and other mounting regions. As a consequence the tact

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times for the mounting process is materially reduced. As applied to claim 28 whether the nozzles are removable or not makes no patentable difference to this claim i.e. the preamble is given no patentable weight. Alternatively it is held to be mere design choice to use removable suction nozzles. As applied to claims 32 and 33 it would have been obvious to have a plurality of component feed sections coincident with component holding devices and component placing positions. Otherwise the apparatus would be non-functional and inoperative for its intended use. As applied to claims 34 and 35 it would have been obvious to provide that the component holding device's moving mechanism is adjustable so that the component holding devices are coincident with the component array intervals since in that manner the holding devices could accommodate different component feed patterns.

Claims 27 and 36-51 are held to be allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to C. J. Arbes at telephone number (703)308-1857.


CARL J. ARBES
PRIMARY EXAMINER